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28 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : H. C. Eisenbeiss
Director, Central Reference Service

VIA : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comments on "A National Approach to Scientific and Technical Information in the United States" by Joseph Becker

1. This memorandum responds to your request for comment on the subject book.

2. Very briefly, the book discusses the enormous growth in scientific information and the difficulties that result for the scientist in trying to be aware of and in utilizing that which is already known. Becker then discusses, briefly, various attempts to solve the difficulties of indexing and making available the body of scientific information. He concludes with a pitch for a national effort, with Federal direction and funding, for a scientific information system that would solve the problem of making the still growing body of scientific information more accessible.

3. There is nothing new about the problem, the thesis, or the pitch. A total solution, which is not likely in the near term in my view, would be beneficial to any scientist, including those working in CIA. Partial solutions are coming regularly; e.g., Library of Congress standard cataloging and exchange of that catalog on magnetic tape (MARC) and the computer-based, on-line National Library of Medicine indexing precis of clinical medical publications. I see no immediate implications for the Agency in the Becker book. The arguments, however, are similar to those which support any sort of similar system, including SAFE.

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

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4. Of interest is the fact that [redacted]

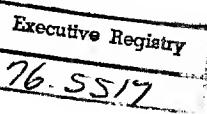
[redacted] has in process a book dealing with the same general problem but in much greater detail. This book (the text of which is available because he submitted it for security clearances) describes the CRS operation, the analytical world of CIA, the need for a SAFE-like system in the intelligence business and then applies the same process to the scientific problem described by Becker. He concludes that between 1980 and the year 2000, the scientific community must have a SAFE-like system.

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[redacted]
H. C. Eisenbeiss

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conversation with:

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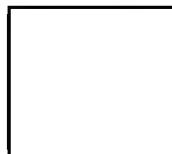
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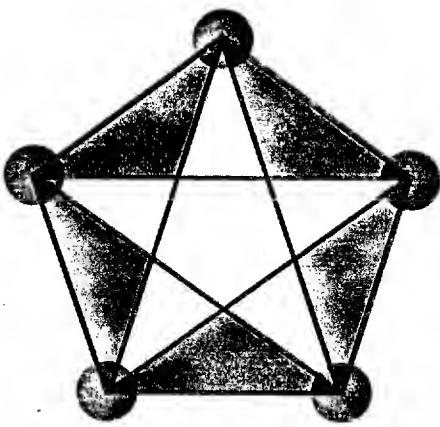
The author of this

I'm not sure whether
this piece has any implications
or actions for us.

I haven't read it. Please
summarize it and round up
a few views if it relates
to us in any significant

STATINTL way.





**a national approach to scientific
and technical information in the United States**

by Joseph Becker

Los Angeles, California / July 4, 1976